

Message Text

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51 46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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P R 110924Z APR 75

FM AMCONSULATE FUKUOKA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO JA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 448

COMFLEACT SASEBO JA

COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA

C O N F I D E N T I A L FUKUOKA 00049

C O R R E C T E D C O P

- MRN 00049 VICE 00000

PROPOSED PORT VISIT BY OKLAHOMA CITY

TAGS: MILI;JA

SUMMARY: APRIL 11 ROUND OF PROTOCOL CALLS WITH CONSULATE'S NEW ECONOM
IC/

COMMERCIAL OFFICER GAVE US CHANCE TO DISCUSS INCUMBENT MAYOR ICHIZO
TSUJI'S CHANCES IN APRIL 27TH SASEBO MAYORALITY ELECTION AND ASSESS
IMPACT OF PRE-ELECTION PORT CALL. THIS AND OTHER SUBJECTS ARE
OUTLINED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

MAYORALITY ELECTION: WE BELIEVE TSUJI WILL WIN. ALTHOUGH SHIGEYASU
SAKATA,
PRESIDENT OF SASEBO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, SAID WINNING
FOURTH
TERM VERY DIFFICULT, HE BELIEVED TSUJI WOULD PROBABLY WIN. MAYOR
HIMSELF
SAID ELECTION WAS "DANGEROUS", BUT WE GOT DISTINCT IMPRESSION HE FEELS

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FAIRLY SAFE.

RUMORED REDUCTION OF BASE: RECENT NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF SIZEABLE REDUCTION OF BASE AND ITS FUNCTIONS DISCUSSED WITH GREAT INTEREST. SAKATA PLUS PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIRMAN TAMAYA DEPARTMENT STORE REGRETTED REDUCTION. LATTER SAID "WE'VE ALWAYS LIKED THE NAVY. WHY DON'T YOU CLOSE YOKOSUKA AND MOVE EVERYTHING TO SASEBO?" EVEN MAYOR TSUJI SAID IT WOULD NOT BE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT HE WOULD WELCOME CLOSURE OF BASE. HE SAID HIS RESPONSIBILITY VIA-A-VIS BASE WORKERS WHO HAVE LOST JOBS IS PARTICULARLY TROUBLESOME. HE ADDED THAT SOME "NEW REPORTERS" HAD MISQUOTED HIM ON VARIOUS COMMENTS REGARDING REDUCTION.

CALL OF OKLAHOMA CITY: COMMANDER, FLEACTS, SASEBO, HAD MENTIONED PROPOSED CALL OF OKLAHOMA CITY APRIL 23-27. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS BY PRINCIPAL OFFICER, GIST OF TSUJI' STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

I REALLY HOPE THE OKLAHOMA CITY WILL NOT CALL UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION.

THE SOCIALISTS ARE VERY SKILLFUL AT USING THIS SORT OF THING, AND I'M AFRAID THAT THEY CAN CONSOLIDATE THEIR OPPOSITION TO ME OVER THE VISIT.

THE LA ROQUE STATEMENT HAS BROUGHT THE ISSUE BACK TO LIFE. MY ATTITUDE

TOWARD PORT VISITS HASN'T CHANGED. AFTER THE ELECTION I WILL

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WELCOME THEM AGAIN. MY REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE VISIT IS SOLELY RELATED TO THE ELECTION. IF THERE WERE AN INCIDENT INVOLVING

SOME OF THE CREW, IT COULD REALLY HURT ME, BUT ONCE THE ELECTION IS OVER, I WILL CERTAINLY WELCOME CALLS BY AMERICAN NAVY SHIPS. END QUOTE.

COMMENT: AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT IN PREVIOUS CABLES, QUESTION OF INFLUENCE ON LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION BY U.S. MILITARY IS COMPLICATED

ONE; HOWEVER, IN THIS CASE, WE CAN BOTH HELP OURSELVES AND BE ON SIDE OF

ANGELS. TSUJI IS A GOOD MAYOR AND BASICALLY A GOOD FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES'. AMCONSULATE FUKUOKA STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT WE CONFIDENTIAL

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POSTPONE ANY PORT CALLS UNTIL AFTER APRIL 27. WE FEEL CONFIDENT THAT WITH ELECTION BEHIND HIM, TSUJI WILL, AS HE SAYS, WELCOME FURTHER CALLS BY U.S. NAVY SHIPS. END COMMENT. RICHARDSON.

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